



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

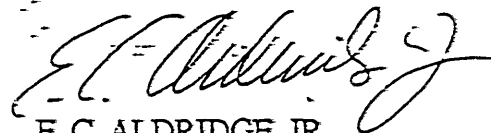
2 December 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM-SOA

SUBJECT: Air Force Space Policy - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

We have recently completed an intensive review of the role of the Air Force in space. That review concluded that space operations can have a decisive influence on future terrestrial conflict. Therefore, we must make a corporate commitment to integrate spacepower throughout the full spectrum of Air Force capabilities. The attached policy lays the groundwork, but your cooperation and commitment are essential to the success of this effort.


LARRY D. WELCH, General, USAF
Chief of Staff


E. C. ALDRIDGE, JR.
Secretary of the Air Force

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AIR FORCE SPACE POLICY

1. The tenets of Air Force space policy are as follows:

- Spacepower will be as decisive in future combat as airpower is today.
- We must be prepared for the evolution of spacepower from combat support to the full spectrum of military capabilities.
- The Air Force will make a solid corporate commitment to integrate space throughout the Air Force.

2. The Air Force envisions a role in space that encompasses the following:

- a. SPACE CONTROL. The Air Force will acquire and operate anti-satellite capabilities. The Air Force will provide battle management/C3 for US space control operations, and will perform the integration of ASAT and surveillance capabilities developed for space control operations. When technology permits cost-effective deployment, the Air Force will acquire and operate space-based anti-satellite capabilities.
- b. FORCE APPLICATION. Should a BMD deployment decision be made, the Air Force will acquire and operate space-based ballistic missile defense assets, will provide battle management/C3 for BMD and will integrate BMD forces. The Air Force will acquire and operate space-based weapons when they become a feasible and necessary element of our force structure.
- c. FORCE ENHANCEMENT. The Air Force will continue to acquire and operate space-based systems for navigation, meteorology, tactical warning and attack assessment, NUDET detection and multi-user communications. The Air Force will continue to support the multi-service approach to conducting space surveillance and for providing mission-unique, space-based communications. The Air Force will acquire and operate a space-based wide area surveillance, tracking and targeting capability and will provide space-based means for space surveillance.
- d. SPACE SUPPORT. The Air Force will continue its long-standing role as the provider of launch and common-user, on-orbit support for the Department of Defense.

3. In accomplishing the above, the Air Force must achieve assured mission capability. Providing that capability to operational commanders will require a balance of survivability, flexibility, responsiveness, logistics supportability, and strong research and technology programs.

4. The Air Force must increase the understanding of and involvement in space issues at all levels, and take actions to institutionalize space within the Air Force. To facilitate the process the following steps are underway:

a. Rewrite Air Force doctrine to integrate space operations into the basic missions and tasks of the Air Force.

b. Reorganize the Air Staff to normalize space responsibilities within the planning, programming, budgeting and acquisition and support processes.

c. Change personnel management procedures to expand space expertise throughout the Air Force, and other operational expertise within Air Force Space Command.

d. Encourage all MAJCOMs to routinely consider space-based means of accomplishing traditional missions. Each Air Component Command should establish itself as the center of space expertise within its supported Unified Command.

e. Consolidate space system requirements, advocacy, and operations, exclusive of developmental and, for the near term, launch systems, in Air Force Space Command.

5. Based on its heritage, expertise and infrastructure the Air Force remains uniquely capable of conducting DoD space activities. Just as we have in the past been the major provider of air forces for this nation's defense, the Air Force will in the future be the major provider of space forces for this nation's defense. It is the responsibility of each Air Force member to make this goal a reality.